

# 3 Policemen Killed In Line of Duty During Provo's History; 2 Murdered, 1 Accidental

By VAL HESS

Every day the police officers of this community, as well as law enforcement officers everywhere, take the chance of exchanging their lives for their paychecks.

Fortunately, in the community of Provo the officers seldom have to lay their lives on the line, but it can happen at any time.

In the long history of the Provo Police Department there have been three officers who have lost their lives while on the job and as a direct result of their police duties. Many others have faced difficult and dangerous situations, but have escaped with their lives.

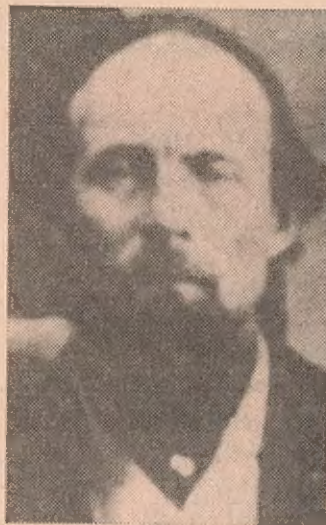
## Ultimate Dedication

But there are three, whose pictures have a place of honor on the wall of the Provo Police headquarters, who have proven their ultimate dedication to duty by offering their lives in the protection of the residents of the community.

Albert H. Bowen, the first chief of police in Provo, was the first victim when he was shot in the head by a drunken man he was attempting to arrest. This occurred on Oct. 15, 1873.

William Strong was killed on June 27, 1899, by a hobo he apparently had arrested while on special assignment to take care of a growing hobo problem.

The other officer, Frank J.



**PAID ULTIMATE PRICE**—These three officers were killed in line of duty while serving on the Provo Police Force. Left, Albert H. Bowen, first chief of police of Provo, fatally shot by a man he was attempting to arrest for drunkenness. Center, William Strong, shot and killed by an unknown hobo who never was apprehended. Right, Frank J. Tucker, killed on duty by an accidental shot from his own gun.

one of the rooms at the Peter Stubbs residence where he appeared to be getting along all right for a while. However, on Oct. 19, four days later, he died of the head injury.

The brother of the accused man, Dominicus Carter, was arrested because he was quoted as telling his brother, after the tragedy, "Here comes an-

Near the turn of the century Provo was having problems with a great number of tramps who were coming into the community on the railroad trains. The problem became so acute, that the Provo City fathers hired William Strong as a special police officer to handle the hobos.

William Strong had served

intersection of J. and Third Streets (presently University Avenue and 3rd South. He struck the officer just behind the right ear and, as the dazed officer tried to pull his own

Hundreds of hobos were arrested in all the surrounding communities but none were found who were thought to be responsible. A horse was stolen from western Provo shortly after the shooting and it is felt that it was the means of escape.

## Early Settler

William Strong was one of the early settlers of Provo. He was born Jan. 25, 1840 in Kendall, Westmoreland, England and joined the LDS church when eight years of age. He moved with his father's family to Utah in 1855 and shortly after moved to Provo.

He was married and the father of children and the veteran officer was greatly respected. His funeral was one of the most well-attended and ornate in the early history of the community.

The third officer to be shot on duty in Provo was Frank J. Tucker, who had served for some time as city marshal and then was a police officer.

Mr. Tucker and a friend, George Ross, were sitting in the sheriff's office in the court house about 10:30 p.m. on June 16, 1904.

## Shot Rings Out

According to Mr. Ross, the two were talking and then were about to leave the office. Mr. Tucker began to rise from his chair, when a pistol shot rang out. The officer then sank back in the chair.



A doctor was immediately summoned but pronounced the policeman dead. The doctor indicated the bullet had entered just above the left hip and then hit the heart.